

THE SPECULATIVE MARKETS

Rumors Concerning the Anti-Option Bill Largely Influenced Prices.

BULLS AND BEARS WERE ON A STRAIN
Prices Were Very Raged at the Outset, and, in the Excitement of Delivery, Varying Prices Were Made Throughout the Pit.

CHICAGO, Ill., Feb. 10.—The anti-option bill which is pending in congress had more to do with the prices on the board than all other influences combined. With the fluctuation of opinion and the circulation of rumors tending to show that it would or would not become a law prices went up or down. The markets, especially wheat, were nervous and "shaky" subject to periods of great activity or dullness, followed by decided dullness; without warning prices would shoot up or down and then in considerable lengths of time could remain very steady.

Bulls and bears alike were on a strain, and ready to run at the first sign of danger. On the curb yesterday afternoon, May wheat had closed at \$2.00, sold off to \$2.75, and this, together with a reduction of from 3d to 3d in values at Liverpool, made the market weak at the start this morning. Prices however, were very ragged at the outset, and in the excitement of delivery varying prices were made in different parts of the pit. Those who had not recovered from the scare of the day before made low offerings, while many of the cool heads who did not much fear a passage of the bill, and who wanted to forestall the market price, were more active.

The result was that the quotation from the different parts of the pit ranged from \$2.00 to \$2.75. The buyers, however, were not to be beaten in a single instance, and there was an advance to \$2.50, many scanners tailing on in the buying movement at the prices mentioned. They understood that the market was not strong but the demand having in the meantime been satisfied there was no one to sell to, and prices plunged down in two minutes. This was followed by a period of inactivity, followed by an advance to \$2.60, then a break to \$2.50. During the last hour the market continued to fluctuate between \$2.50 and \$2.60, and fluctuations ranging from \$2.00 to \$2.60. Near the close it was reported that Lance, Bush, and had received a wire from their home in Liverpool that it was extremely doubtful whether the committee would ever report on the anti-option bill, as they were not in a position to do so. On this there was a rush to buy, and the price went up to \$2.60. Prices were steady; No. 2 mixed, 2d; No. 2 white, 3d; No. 2 dark, 3d.

PEAS—Wheat, 1c; corn, 1c; beans, 1c; rice, 1c; oats, 1c; rye, 1c; barley, 1c; buckwheat, 1c.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 10.—WHEAT—Very dull; No. 2, hard, \$2.00; No. 2 red, 3d.

OATS—Was steady; mixed, 3d; white, 3d.

WHEAT—Were steady; No. 2 mixed, 2d; No. 2 white, 3d.

PEAS—Were steady; No. 2, 2d; No. 2 white, 3d.

CORN—Wheat, 1c; corn, 1c; beans, 1c; rice, 1c; oats, 1c; rye, 1c; barley, 1c; buckwheat, 1c.

BEANS—Wheat, 1c; corn, 1c; beans, 1c; rice, 1c; oats, 1c; rye, 1c; barley, 1c; buckwheat, 1c.

RAPESEED—Was steady; No. 2, 2d; No. 2 white, 3d.

WHEAT—Wheat, 1c; corn, 1c; beans, 1c; rice, 1c; oats, 1c; rye, 1c; barley, 1c; buckwheat, 1c.

PEAS—Wheat, 1c; corn, 1c; beans, 1c; rice, 1c; oats, 1c; rye, 1c; barley, 1c; buckwheat, 1c.

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